

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

--FIG. 2 ~~[[is]]~~ illustrates a ~~[[schematic side]]~~ cross-sectional view of the ~~[[FIG.1]]~~ hot water storage system ~~[[without the external insulated tank]]~~ according to Fig. 1.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, line 20, through page 13, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

--FIG. 2 shows a schematic cross-sectional view of the hot water storage tank 26 showing the hot water 40 flowing from the hot water influent nipple element 30 to the hot water effluent nipple element 36. The tank 26 has either surrounding insulation 26'. It is well known in the art to provide insulation for maintaining the temperature of an internal volume. Types of insulation commonly used, such as fiberglass or foam rubber ~~[[not shown]]~~ or ~~[[can be]]~~ vacuum ~~[[insulated]]~~ insulation, as well as many other conventionally known insulating materials are operable to maintain the temperature of the hot water contained in the tank 26. As shown in Fig. 2, the generally serpentine path of the hot water 40 through the tank 26 has a generally curved inner surface, allowing trapped air to freely exit from the tank 26 via the effluent nipple element 36.--